



U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania Quarterly Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Message from the U.S. Attorney	1
Project Safe Childhood	2
Recent Noteworthy Cases	3-4
Employee Spotlight	5
MDPA Map and Office Information	6

A Message from the U.S. Attorney



In this, the third issue of our district's newsletter, we focus on Project Safe Childhood. A Department of Justice initiative, Project Safe Childhood coordinates the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups into a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat child sexual exploitation. Project Safe Childhood is implemented through a partnership of U.S. Attorneys, FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Secret Service; Internet Crimes Against Children task forces; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and other non-governmental organizations; and state and local law enforcement agencies. These federal, state, and local law officials tirelessly strive to protect our children by investigating and prosecuting sexual predators.

As set forth in *The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, A Report to Congress*, the Department of Justice recognizes that the sexual exploitation of our children is not just a threat to children, it is a threat to the fabric of our society. And if we, as a nation, are to eradicate this sinister threat we will need the continued assistance and cooperation of not only law enforcement agencies, but also parents, educators, medical professionals, social service providers, and our children.

We all have a shared obligation to keep our children safe. To this end, I invite and encourage you to visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/index.htm> for more information on Project Safe Childhood and how you can help.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Peter J. Smith

Project Safe Childhood

The Department of Justice recently released a report to Congress entitled, *The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction*. The 144-page report (plus lengthy appendices) provides a national threat assessment, a review of the nation's efforts to combat child exploitation, and strategies for prevention and more effective investigation and prosecution of offenders. As the report concludes, "The spirit of our children, and their continued innocence, demands our best efforts."

In 2006, the Department of Justice initiated Project Safe Childhood (PSC) to help deal with the explosion of child sexual exploitation offenses committed via the internet. PSC combines and coordinates the efforts of federal and state prosecutors and investigators to identify, investigate, and successfully prosecute offenders who exploit or attempt to exploit children through online enticement, child sex tourism, and the production, trafficking, and possession of child pornography.

The statistics are frightening. The number of child sex exploitation offenses prosecuted by U.S. Attorneys' Offices throughout the nation jumped from 774 in 1994 to 3,661 in 2006. The number of child sex exploitation incidents reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) jumped from 4,560 in 1998 to 102,029 in 2008.

Congress has reacted to this problem by enacting tough penalties for child sex exploitation offenses. For example, producers and attempted producers of child pornography face 15-year mandatory minimum prison sentences. The traffickers (receipt, shipping, and distribution) of child pornography face five-year mandatory minimum prison

sentences. Possessors of child pornography face up to 10 years in federal prison. Online enticement offenders face a 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence and could be sentenced up to life in prison and enhanced penalties for defendants with prior child sex exploitation convictions.

Congress has also ensured that the U.S. Sentencing Commission Guidelines reflect the harm that is done to children and our society by child sex exploitation offenders. Congress, in enacting child sex exploitation statutes, has made express findings regarding the harm caused by such offenses and the necessity for severe criminal penalties to be imposed on the perpetrators of these offenses. Those Congressional findings are based on hearings, testimony, and data regarding such offenses.

Locally, the Middle District has made prosecuting child pornography cases a priority. This edition of the newsletter provides a small sampling of the significant results law enforcement in this district continues to achieve in identifying and successfully prosecuting child sex exploitation offenders.

Assistant United States Attorney Fran Sempa is the Project Safe Childhood Coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Pennsylvania.



For more information please visit:

<http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>

Recent Noteworthy Cases

U.S. v. Carvlin

George Carvlin was sentenced to 15 years in prison for internet enticement and transporting child pornography via computer. The Pittsburgh, PA man was apprehended when he traveled to a Monroe County location to attempt to meet a 14-year-old female for illegal sexual purposes.

This case was investigated by the FBI and the Barrett Township Police Department in Monroe County



U.S. v. Steinruck

Jeremy Steinruck was sentenced to 10 years in prison for trafficking in child pornography. He was indicted in January 2010 following an investigation by the FBI, Scranton Police and the Lackawanna County District Attorney's office. Steinruck later admitted to downloading and trading images of child pornography on his computer.



U.S. v. Stuckey



A Bloomsburg convicted sex offender was indicted for failing to notify law enforcement of his address change.

Geoffrey Stuckey was convicted in 2005, for receiving child pornography and was sentenced to 5 years in prison and a lifetime of supervised release. He began serving his supervised release in July 2010 and in September 2010 law enforcement became aware that Stuckey had changed his residence without prior approval by probation. If convicted, Stuckey could be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Probation Office.

Recent Noteworthy Cases continued...

U.S. v. Larkin

The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit affirmed the prison sentence of Angela Larkin, formerly of Cameron County, Pennsylvania.

Larkin was previously sentenced to 30 years in prison for producing child pornography that involved young relatives which she then sent to a pedophile in Texas.

The charge against Larkin resulted from a joint investigation by agents from the FBI and Pennsylvania State Police.



U.S. v. Dudkiewicz

John Dudkiewicz, of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison for downloading and trading child pornography.

The case was investigated by the FBI, Lackawanna County Detectives and the Taney County Missouri Sheriff's Office.



Employee Spotlight

*Welcome
aboard!*



Brian McDonnell

In August 2010, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania designated Brian McDonnell as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. His hiring is part of a partnership with the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide a federal prosecutor dedicated to prosecute any case related to immigration fraud. The designation is scheduled to last a minimum of two years.

Previously Assistant Chief Counsel with ICE, Brian has extensive knowledge of immigration law. In less than six months with the U.S. Attorney's Office, he has indicted approximately 25 cases. Just last month, seven individuals were charged in unrelated allegations of immigration fraud. Brian is an experienced prosecutor. He spent nine years as an Assistant District Attorney in Berks County, PA.

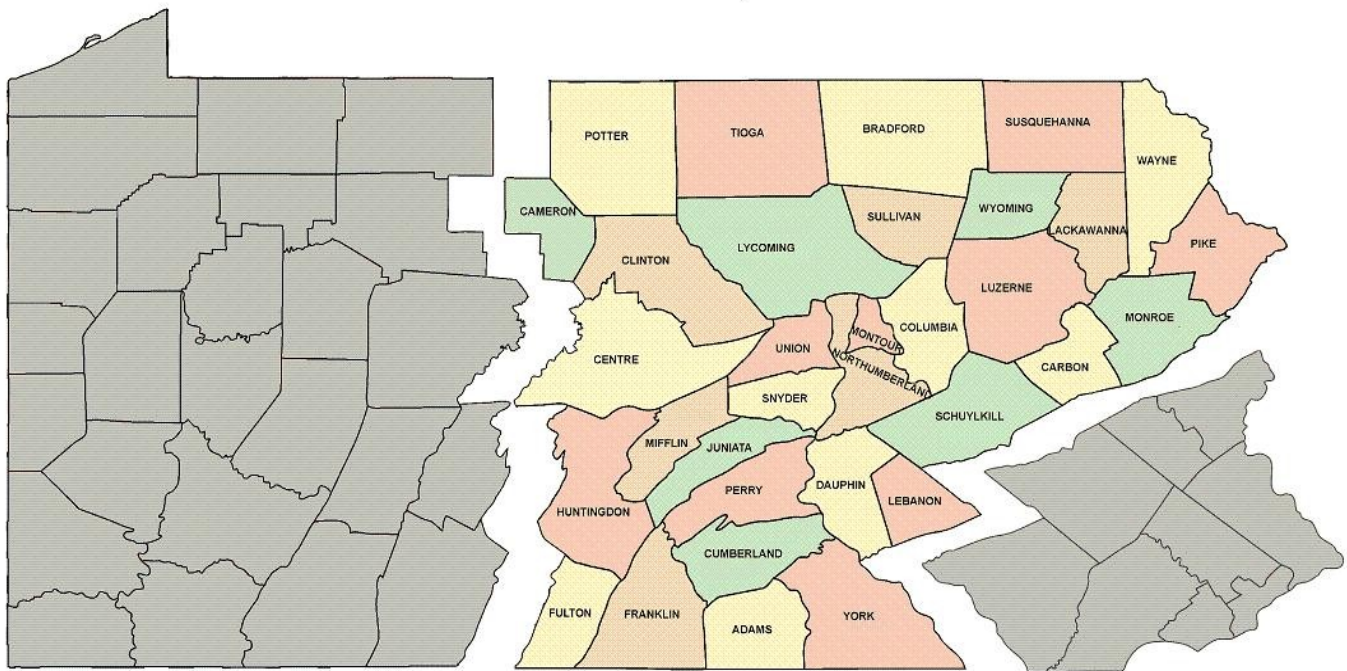
U.S. Attorney Smith noted, "Working with other federal, state and local law enforcement is always a priority in the U.S. Attorney's Office. In doing so, we are able to address law enforcement efforts more efficiently and effectively. Our partnership with ICE brings together the extensive expertise of the ICE staff and the prosecutorial skill of our office. It is the first time our agencies have partnered in this manner and we are very excited about the impact this partnership will have on immigration fraud prosecutions in the Middle District."

Congratulations!



September 2010 - Certificates of Appreciation were issued by the Philadelphia Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to Swatara Township PD Detective Timothy Shatto and North Londonderry Township PD Officer Timothy Zechman for their involvement in separate, joint Identity Theft investigations perpetrated in the Middle District. Their invaluable assistance made the difference in getting both of these matters successfully pled.

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Middle District of Pennsylvania



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